

REMARKS

The Final Office Action mailed February 20, 2008 has been carefully considered.

Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 12-44, 46, 47, and 50-70 are currently pending.

The Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowance of claims 18-24, 31-37, 40-44, 53, 56, 57, 61, 64, and 65.

Claims 1-11, 45, and 48-49 were previously cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 12-17, 25-30, 38-39, 46-47, 50-52, 54-55, 58-60, 62-63, and 66-70 are presently cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

No new matter has been added.

With this Amendment it is respectfully submitted the claims satisfy the statutory requirements.

The First 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 12-17, 25-30, 38-39, 46-47, 51-52, 54-55, 58-60, 62-63, and 66-70 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tang et al.¹ in view of Hoffman et al.^{2 3} With this Amendment, Claims 12-17, 25-30, 38-39, 46-47, 51-52, 54-55, 58-60, 62-63, and

¹ U.S. Patent No. 6,839,348 to Tang et al.

² U.S. Patent No. 6,094,435 to Hoffman et al.

³ Office Action mailed February 20, 2008, pp. 5-9.

66-70 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein, rendering the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection of these claims moot.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for the kind allowance of Claims 18-24, 31-37, 40-44, 53, 56, 57, 61, 64, and 65. The Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance as set forth in the Office Action. However, Applicants point out that the reasons for allowability of the above referenced claims are not limited to the reasons for allowance as set forth in the Office Action, and that additional reasons for allowability may exist, each of which may be independently sufficient to establish the patentability of one or more pending claims.

The Applicants respectfully reserve the right to introduce, articulate, or otherwise comment on any such additional reasons for allowance as may be appropriate in any future proceedings concerning the claimed invention.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

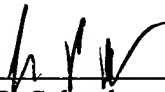
The Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 14, 2008



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